IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A region data describing method for describing, over a plurality of frames, region data about a region of an arbitrary object existing in a video, the region data describing method comprising:

extracting position data of a representative point of an approximate figure approximating the region or a characteristic point of the region from the plurality of frames;

~~determining a function~~ approximating a temporal trajectory ~~which links~~ of corresponding representative points or corresponding characteristic points of successive frames with a function of time, a coefficient of the function being represented by a parameter; and

describing the parameter of the function as the region data.

Claim 2 (Original): The region data describing method according to claim 1, further comprising describing information specifying a leading frame or a trailing frame of said plurality of frames as the region data.

Claim 3 (Original): The region data describing method according to claim 2, further comprising describing information of the type of the approximate figure as the region data.

Claim 4 (Original): The region data describing method according to claim 2, further comprising describing information of the number of the approximate figure as the region data.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The region data describing method according to claim

1, further comprising: ~~wherein the parameter includes~~

describing position data of knots of the trajectory and information specifying the

trajectory used together with position data of the knots of the trajectory.

Claim 6 (Original): The region data describing method according to claim 1, wherein

a plurality of the representative points or the characteristic points are included in a

certain frame, and

the region data includes information specifying correspondence among a plurality of

said representative points or characteristic points in the certain frame and a plurality of said

representative points or characteristic points in an adjacent frame.

Claim 7 (Original): The region data describing method according to claim 1, further

comprising describing related information related to the object or information indicating a

method of accessing to the related information.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A region data generating apparatus for generating

region data about a region of an arbitrary object existing in a plurality of frames of a video,

the region data generating apparatus comprising:

an extracting circuit configured to extract position data of a representative point of an

approximate figure approximating the region or a characteristic point of the region from the

plurality of frames;

~~a function determining~~ an approximating circuit configured to ~~determine a function~~

~~approaching~~ approximate a temporal trajectory ~~which links~~ of corresponding representative

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points or corresponding characteristic points of successive frames <u>with a function of time, a</u> <u>coefficient of</u> the function being represented by a parameter; and

a describing circuit configured to describe the parameter of the function as the region data.

Claim 9 (Original): The region data generating apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said describing circuit describes information specifying a leading frame or a trailing frame of said plurality of frames.

Claim 10 (Original): The region data generating apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said describing circuit describes information of the type of the approximate figure.

Claim 11 (Original): The region data generating apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said describing circuit describes information of the number of the approximate figure.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The region data generating apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the <u>describing circuit further describes</u> ~~parameter includes~~ position data of knots of the trajectory and information specifying the trajectory and used together with position data of the knots of the trajectory.

Claim 13 (Original): The region data generating apparatus according to claim 8, wherein

a plurality of the representative points or the characteristic points are included in a certain frame, and

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the region data includes information specifying correspondence among a plurality of

said representative points or characteristic points in the certain frame and a plurality of said

representative points or characteristic points in an adjacent frame.

Claim 14 (Original): The region data generating apparatus according to claim 8,

wherein said describing circuit describes related information related to the object or

information indicating a method of accessing to the related information.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): A storing medium storing a computer program for

describing, over a plurality of frames, region data about a region of an arbitrary object

existing in a video, the computer program comprising:

a first program code of extracting position data of a representative point of an

approximate figure approximating the region or a characteristic point of the region from the

plurality of frames;

a second program code of ~~determining a function~~ approximating a temporal trajectory

~~which links~~ of corresponding representative points or corresponding characteristic points of

successive frames with a function of time, a coefficient of the function being represented by a

parameter; and

a third program code of describing the parameter of the function.

Claim 16 (Original): The storing medium according to claim 15, wherein

said third program code describes information specifying a leading frame or a trailing

frame of said plurality of frames.

Claim 17 (Original): The storing medium according to claim 16, wherein

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said third program code describes information of the type of the approximate figure.

Claim 18 (Original): The storing medium according to claim 16, wherein

said third program code describes information of the number of the approximate

figure.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): The storing medium according to claim 15, wherein

the third program code further describes ~~parameter is~~ position data of knots of the trajectory

and information specifying the trajectory and used together with position data of the knots of

the trajectory.

Claim 20 (Original): The storing medium according to claim 15, wherein

a plurality of the representative points or the characteristic points are included in a

certain frame, and

said third program code describes information specifying correspondence among a

plurality of said representative points or characteristic points in the certain frame and a

plurality of said representative points or characteristic points in an adjacent frame.

Claim 21 (Original): The storing medium according to claim 15, wherein

said third program code describes related information related to the object or

information indicating a method of accessing to the related information.

Claim 22 (Original): The storing medium according to claim 15, wherein

the region data comprises identification information of the object, information

specifying a leading frame and a trailing frame of said plurality of frames, information related

to the object, information indicating a method of accessing to the related information,

information of the number of the approximate figure, and approximate figure information

which includes information of the type of the approximate figure, number information of the

representative point, and function data of a spline function approximating the trajectories of

the representative point which includes knot information, order information of the spline

function, and coefficient information of the spline function.

Claim 23 (Original): The storing medium according to claim 15, wherein

the region data comprises identification information of the object, information

specifying a leading frame and a trailing frame of said plurality of frames, related information

related to the object, information indicating a method of accessing to the related information,

and characteristic point information which includes information of the number of the

characteristic point and function data of a spline function approximating the trajectories of

the characteristic point which includes knot information, order information of the spline

function, and coefficient information of the spline function.

Claim 24 (New): A region data describing method for describing, over a plurality of

frames, region data about a region of an arbitrary object existing in a video, the region data

describing method comprising:

extracting position data of a representative point of an approximate figure

approximating the region or a characteristic point of the region from the plurality of frames;

approximating-a-trajectory-of-corresponding representative points or-corresponding

characteristic points of at least three successive frames with a function, the function being

represented by a parameter; and

describing the parameter of the function as the region data.

Claim 25 (New): The region data describing method according to claim 24, further comprising describing information specifying a leading frame or a trailing frame of said plurality of frames as the region data.

Claim 26 (New): The region data describing method according to claim 25, further comprising describing information of the type of the approximate figure as the region data.

Claim 27 (New): The region data describing method according to claim 25, further comprising describing information of the number of the approximate figure as the region data.

Claim 28 (New): The region data describing method according to claim 24, further comprising:

describing position data of knots of the trajectory and information specifying the trajectory used together with position data of the knots of the trajectory.

Claim 29 (New): The region data describing method according to claim 24, wherein

a plurality of the representative points or the characteristic points are included in a certain frame, and

the region data includes information specifying correspondence among a plurality of said representative points or characteristic points in the certain frame and a plurality of said representative points or characteristic points in an adjacent frame.

Claim 30 (New): The region data describing method according to claim 24, further comprising describing related information related to the object or information indicating a method of accessing to the related information.

Claim 31 (New): A region data generating apparatus for generating region data about a region of an arbitrary object existing in a plurality of frames of a video, the region data generating apparatus comprising:

an extracting circuit configured to extract position data of a representative point of an approximate figure approximating the region or a characteristic point of the region from the plurality of frames;

an approximating circuit configured to approximate a trajectory of corresponding representative points or corresponding characteristic points of at least three successive frames with a function, the function being represented by a parameter; and

a describing circuit configured to describe the parameter of the function as the region data.

Claim 32 (New): The region data generating apparatus according to claim 31, wherein said describing circuit describes information specifying a leading frame or a trailing frame of said plurality of frames.

Claim 33 (New): The region data generating apparatus according to claim 32, wherein said describing circuit describes information of the type of the approximate figure.

Claim 34 (New): The region data generating apparatus according to claim 32, wherein said describing circuit describes information of the number of the approximate figure.

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Claim 35 (New): The region data generating apparatus according to claim 31, wherein the describing circuit further describes position data of knots of the trajectory and information specifying the trajectory and used together with position data of the knots of the trajectory.

Claim 36 (New): The region data generating apparatus according to claim 31, wherein a plurality of the representative points or the characteristic points are included in a certain frame, and

the region data includes information specifying correspondence among a plurality of said representative points or characteristic points in the certain frame and a plurality of said representative points or characteristic points in an adjacent frame.

Claim 37 (New): The region data generating apparatus according to claim 31, wherein said describing circuit describes related information related to the object or information indicating a method of accessing to the related information.

Claim 38 (New): A storing medium storing a computer program for describing, over a plurality of frames, region data about a region of an arbitrary object existing in a video, the computer program comprising:

a first program code of extracting position data of a representative point of an approximate figure approximating the region or a characteristic point of the region from the plurality of frames;

a second program code of approximating a trajectory of corresponding representative points or corresponding characteristic points of at least three successive frames with a function, the function being represented by a parameter; and

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a third program code of describing the parameter of the function.

Claim 39 (New): The storing medium according to claim 38, wherein

said third program code describes information specifying a leading frame or a trailing

frame of said plurality of frames.

Claim 40 (New): The storing medium according to claim 39, wherein

said third program code describes information of the type of the approximate figure.

Claim 41 (New): The storing medium according to claim 39, wherein

said third program code describes information of the number of the approximate

figure.

Claim 42 (New): The storing medium according to claim 38, wherein the third

program code further describes position data of knots of the trajectory and information

specifying the trajectory and used together with position data of the knots of the trajectory.

Claim 43 (New): The storing medium according to claim 38, wherein

a plurality of the representative points or the characteristic points are included in a

certain frame, and

said third program code describes information specifying correspondence among a

plurality of said representative points or characteristic points in the certain frame and a

plurality of said representative points or characteristic points in an adjacent frame.

Claim 44 (New): The storing medium according to claim 38, wherein

said third program code describes related information related to the object or

information indicating a method of accessing to the related information.

Claim 45 (New): The storing medium according to claim 38, wherein

the region data comprises identification information of the object, information

specifying a leading frame and a trailing frame of said plurality of frames, information related

to the object, information indicating a method of accessing to the related information,

information of the number of the approximate figure, and approximate figure information

which includes information of the type of the approximate figure, number information of the

representative point, and function data of a spline function approximating the trajectories of

the representative point which includes knot information, order information of the spline

function, and coefficient information of the spline function.

Claim 46 (New): The storing medium according to claim 38, wherein

the region data comprises identification information of the object, information

specifying a leading frame and a trailing frame of said plurality of frames, related information

related to the object, information indicating a method of accessing to the related information,

and characteristic point information which includes information of the number of the

characteristic point and function data of a spline function approximating the trajectories of

the characteristic point which includes knot information, order information of the spline

function, and coefficient information of the spline function.

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